



Missouri State Library

JUL 08 2021

State Documents

elcome to Missouri's State Capitol. In addition to being the center of state government, this magnificent structure is a living monument to the people who made Missouri a strong and progressive state. Some people have called the Capitol a "working art museum" because many beautiful murals and sculptures adorn the corridors and legislative chambers. For those of you who have toured the Capitol, this booklet will serve as a remembrance of your visit. For those of you who have not, we invite you to see for yourselves the beauty of this building and the others in the Capitol Complex.

Your visit should include a stop at Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, the restoration of which was Missouri's official statewide Bicentennial project in 1976. Today, Jefferson Landing contains exhibits and an audio-visual presentation that will enrich your understanding of the history of the capital city and the great heritage of Missouri.

I hope that your visit is a rewarding one. Please return often.

Sincerely.

Christopher S. Bond

GOVERNOR

For Sale by Missouri Department of Natural Resources Fred A. Lafser Director

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources conducts guided tours of the State Capitol and Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. Schedules and advance reservations for groups may be obtained by writing Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Photography by Gerald Massie, Nick Decker, Dan Heaviland, Clay Bauske, Andrew Gamble, and Sharon Hanson

# Missouri's Capitol

N A BLUFF overlooking the Missouri River stands a large white stone structure that dominates the skyline for miles around -- the Missouri State Capitol.

The Capitol, visible from farm lands and river bluffs surrounding Jefferson City, is the center of political, agricultural, industrial, and social planning of state government.

The building was constructed between 1913 and 1918 after the old Capitol, which was built on the site in 1840, was destroyed during a lightning storm.

White crystalline limestone marble from Carthage, Mo., and Corinthian columns lining the exterior walls complement the building's classical style of architecture. The building's 500,000 square feet of floor space occupy three acres of land.

A year-round tourist attraction, the Capitol draws as many as 1,000 visitors a day. Many of the visitors are Missouri school children who tour the building for a firsthand look at state government.



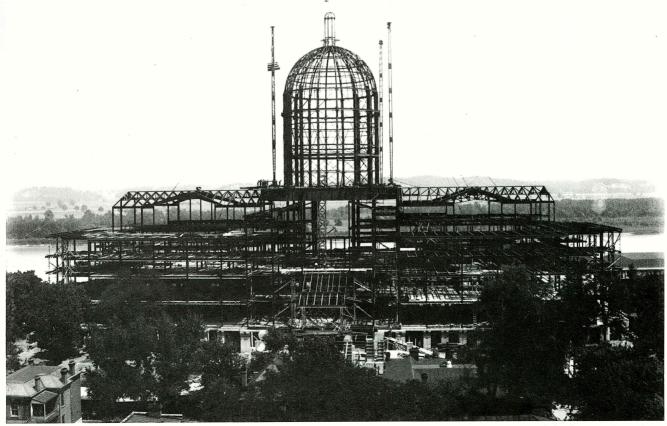
# Capitol Construction

HE CURRENT CAPITOL is the third to stand in Jefferson City. The first Capitol, measuring only 40 by 60 feet, was built when Jefferson City first became the state's seat of government in 1826. It was located on the grounds near the present executive mansion. Fire destroyed this first Capitol in 1837. A second and much larger Capitol then was completed in 1840 near the site of the present building. This Capitol, expanded in 1888, also was destroyed by fire when a bolt of lightning struck the dome on February 5, 1911.

On August 1, 1911, in a special election, Missourians approved the issuance of \$3.5 million in bonds to finance construction of a new Capitol. A bi-partisan State Capitol Commission Board was appointed to oversee construction of the building. After an architectural competition featuring 68 entrants was held, the New York firm of Tracy and Swartwout was selected to design the structure.



"The Largest Spiderweb in Missouri" is a view taken by T. G. Cooper looking straight up at the unfinished Capitol dome.



The "skeleton" of the Capitol is made up of 5,200 tons of steel. This photograph by T. G. Cooper shows most of the framework in place.



Nearing completion, the new Capitol needs only the addition of sculptures, landscaping, and interior art work. The additional buildings surrounding the Capitol were demolished soon after completion of the Capitol itself.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on May 6, 1913, and the cornerstone was laid on June 24, 1915. The building rests upon 285 concrete piers above a limestone bluff on the south bank of the Missouri River. It is 437 feet long and 300 feet wide at its center. The top of the dome stands 262 feet above the level of the basement floor. The building, which covers three acres, has 500,000 square feet of floor space. The exterior and interior surfaces are composed primarily of Missouri's Carthage and Phenix marble.

Although the advent of the First World War slowed construction and made some materials scarce, there remained a surplus in the building fund. A Capitol Decoration Commission was appointed to use the surplus to select art work for the interior and exterior of the building. Most of the outstanding artistic features of the building were selected by this commission.

Having just completed a ceremony marking the placement of the capstone on the top of the dome, officials pose precariously high above the city. Photographer T. G. Cooper's perch can only be imagined.





## The Great Dome

A LARGE WHITE DOME, adorned with two tiers of columns and intricate carvings, enhance the building's design. A bronze statue of Ceres, goddess of agriculture, stands 262 feet above the ground at the top of the great dome. In one hand the goddess holds a sheaf of grain. With the other hand outstretched, she bestows her blessings on one of the nation's foremost agricultural states.

The view of the dome is striking from the interior of the Capitol as well. From the first floor rotunda, visitors gaze up at a bronze chandelier that weighs 9,000 pounds and hangs from the dome's eye, 220 feet above the ground.

Decorative paintings in the dome, characterized by the abundance of color, form, and energy, were executed in London, England, by the famous muralist Frank Brangwyn. They were shipped to this country to be placed in the dome.

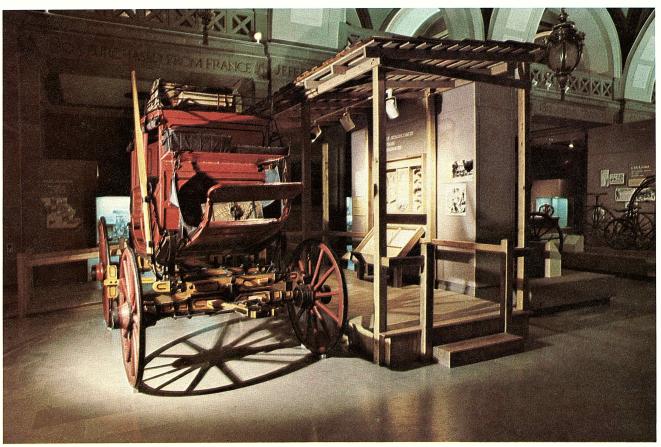
In the center of the dome, Brangwyn has painted four colossal figures representing the state's mainsprings of prosperity: agriculture, commerce, science, and education. The heads of the figures project to the center of the dome's eye where the 12 signs of the zodiac are painted.

The paintings of the famous artist also decorate the sides of the dome. In color schemes of bright blue, gold, and orange, Brangwyn depicts four great historical periods of Missouri: the landing of Pierre Laclede in 1764, the pioneer period, the period of settlement and development, and the period of modern construction. Brangwyn uses panels of the lower dome to portray the classical elements of nature: earth, water, fire, and air.

The whispering gallery is an unusual feature of the dome. Its design allows even the softest whisper to be heard on the opposite side of the dome.

Gazing upward from the floor of the rotunda, visitors view the dome's colorful panels and intricate designs.

## First Floor: Rotunda and Missouri



Missouri's important role as the starting point for many of the early trade and migration routes to the West is illustrated in Missouri State Museum exhibits.

HE ENTRANCE, or first floor, is noted for its impressive rotunda, 68 feet in diameter. In its center is the bronze state seal embedded in the marble floor.

The rotunda makes an attractive setting for the governor's inauguration and traditional ball. During the Christmas season, students in Jefferson City schools decorate the rotunda and present an inspiring program of Christmas carols.

Between the rotunda and the two corridors that house the Missouri State Museum are eight large columns made from "ruby" granite, a Precambrian stone found near Graniteville, Mo. Inside the Missouri State Museum, visitors view artifacts that represent Missouri's rich heritage from aboriginal time to the present.



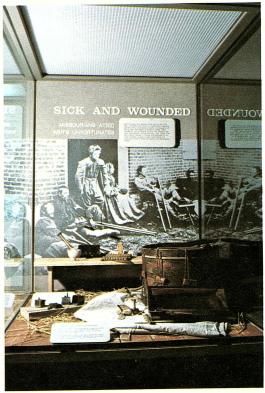
Located in large vaulted spaces on the Capitol's first floor, the Missouri State Museum illustrates the historical development of the state and the natural development of its resources.

## State Museum

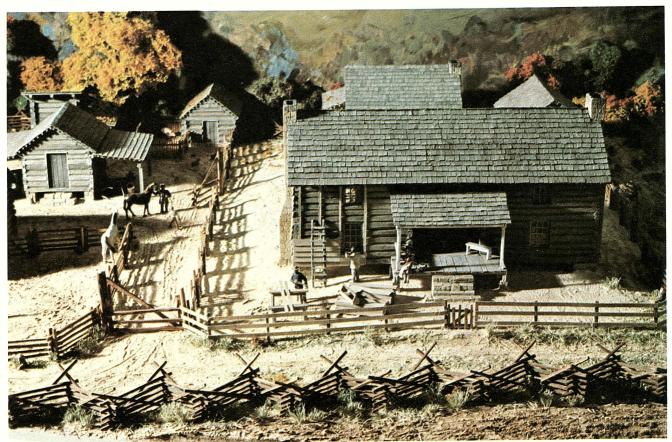
THE MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM is a favorite attraction for visitors to Missouri's Capitol. The museum features two large exhibition areas: the History Hall and the Resources Hall. In the History Hall, exhibits highlight themes illustrating the experiences of Missourians who settled, developed, and lived in the state. Exhibits in the Resources Hall deal with Missouri's natural features as well as man's interaction with these great natural resources.

In addition to the exhibits, the portraits of Missouri's past territorial and state governors hang in four galleries within the museum.

The museum's east wing also is called the Missouri Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hall, and it contains several plaques and memorials honoring Missourians who served the nation in times of war.



Exhibits in the Missouri State Museum's History Hall highlight both the triumphant and the tragic aspects of Missouri's past.



Early pioneer life in Missouri is illustrated by small models called dioramas. Early farm implements and other tools used to develop the land also are depicted.

## The Second Floor: Executive Offices

HE SECOND FLOOR is known as the executive floor. It houses the offices of the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, and Treasurer.

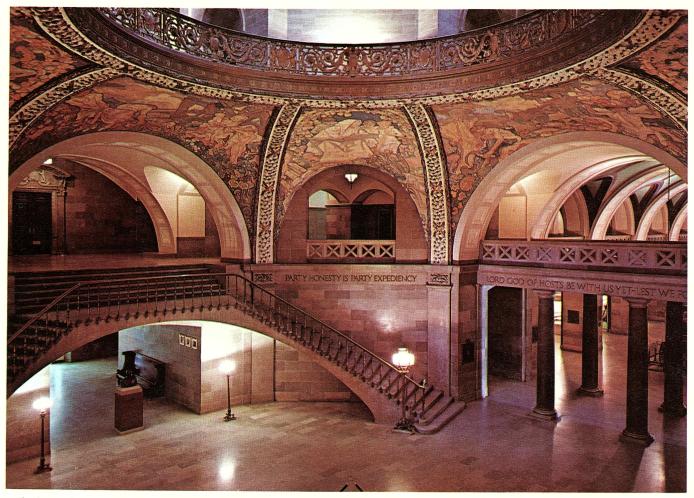
The Governor's office is on the north side of the building overlooking the Missouri River. Both the Governor's office and the adjoining reception room are panelled with fine carvings from Missouri oak. On the wall in the Governor's office are four large paintings dedicated to education and literature in Missouri. They

depict Eugene Field, a children's poet; Mark Twain, author and humorist; Susan Blow, founder of the kindergarten system; and Maj. James S. Rollins, founder of the University of Missouri.

A series of arches and lunettes, or halfmoon shaped paintings, portraying historical events in Missouri line the second floor halls. These paintings include two by N.C. Wyeth, father of Andrew Wyeth, a popular contemporary artist.



The Governor's office, located on the second floor, is an oval chamber with walls of carved oak. Four large wall paintings represent education and literature in Missouri. A brilliantly colored state seal is woven into the carpet.



The lower dome area is complete with Frank Brangwyn paintings that depict the classical elements of nature. Between them are panels illustrating man's use of those elements in agriculture, science, education, and art.

Lunettes, lining the corridors of the second floor, are decorated with paintings that illustrate the history and natural resources of the state. The artists, some with national reputations, are N.C. Wyeth, O.E. Berninghous, Ernest L. Blumenschein, Frank B. Nuderscher, Walter Ufer, W. Herbert Duncan, E. Irving Couse, Victor Higgins, Richard Miller, Bert G. Phillips, R.A. Kissack, F. Humphrey Woolrych, Rober Ball, E.H. Wuerpel, Tom P. Barnett, Charles F. Galt, Ralph C. Ott, Fred G. Carpenter, Adolphe Blondheim, and Henry Reuterdahl.



The Battle of Wilson's Creek was a desperate engagement in the Civil War. Lunette by N.C. Wyeth.



The Battle of Westport has been called the Gettysburg of the West. Lunette by N.C. Wyeth.



The "Glory of Missouri" is the decorative theme in the main chamber of the House of Representatives. Above the Speaker's ornate rostrum is a large mosaic window entitled "The Glory of Missouri in Peace."

## The Third Floor: House Wing

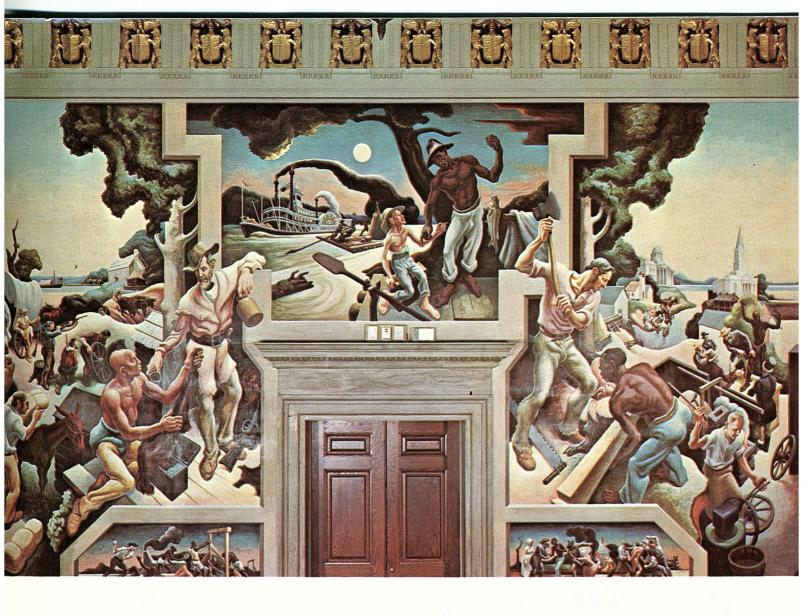
T HE HOUSE CHAMBER, furnished in mahogany, seats 163 representatives. The "Glory of Missouri" is the decorative theme of the House, and a mosaic above the Speaker's rostrum is entitled *The Glory of Missouri in Peace*. Allegorical figures pictured in the window represent Missouri sitting on a throne, surrounded by commerce, mining, and agriculture on her left; justice, art, and science on her right.

On the wall opposite this window is a large painting by Charles Hoffbauer depicting Missouri at war. The mural, painted by the Frenchman in France, shows Missouri soldiers fighting in that country during World War I.

At the top of the walls of the House are ten stained-glass windows representing the characteristics of democracy: liberty, equality, law, justice, fraternity, progress, honor, truth, virtue, and charity.



The decorations of the House chamber include a large mural representing the "Glory of Missouri in War." A French artist, Charles Hoffbauer, who was closely associated with Missouri troops during World War I, was commissioned to paint this mural of Missouri soldiers in France.



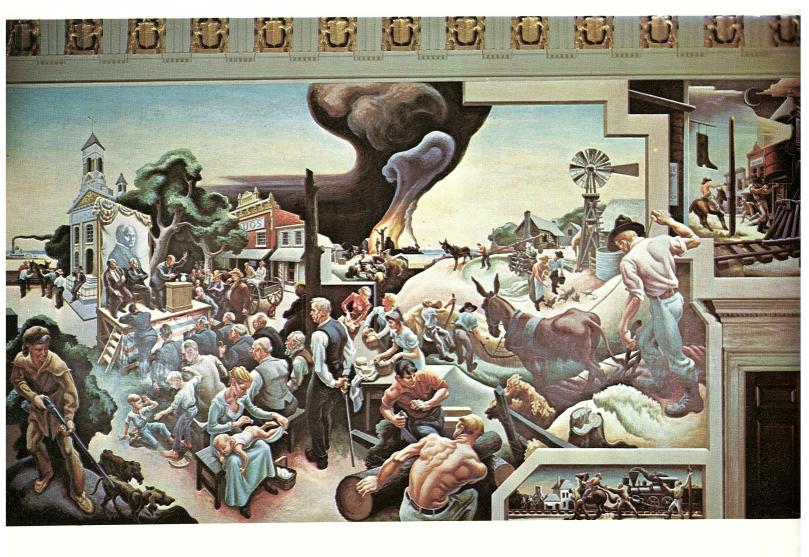
#### Commentary on the Benton Murals

by Thomas Hart Benton

Thomas Hart Benton, 1880-1975, is Missouri's best-known, 20th-century artist and his paintings are among the most valued of state treasures.

N 1933, I had done a large mural for the State of Indiana. Later, on a lecture tour, in 1934, I came out to Missouri and in Kansas City met my brother, Nat Benton, and Senator Ed Barbour of Springfield. We got to talking about the prospects of my doing a mural for Missouri. Afterwards we went down to Jefferson City and had one of these hotel parties, sounding out the various representatives of the State on the project. Everybody seemed to go along with the idea that the State should have a mural by me. So, in due course, \$16,000 was appropriated by the Legislature and I was instructed to do the mural on the walls of the House Lounge.

I lived, in those days, in New York City. I had lived there for 24 years. However, when I started working on the Missouri mural I found it was going to take two years to finish, so I moved out here and reinstituted myself as a citizen of Missouri.



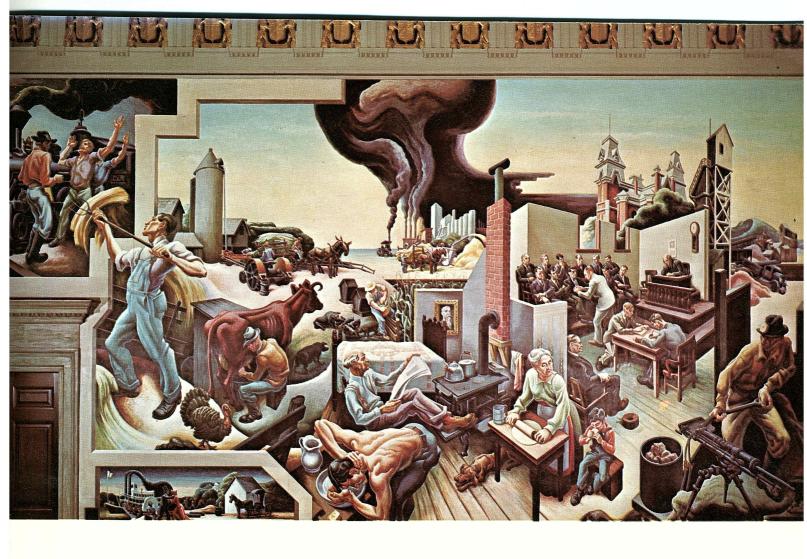
I wanted to have the mural as realistic as possible, which entailed traveling all over the State making drawings of the land and the people. After I had my subject matter worked out, I had to design it, put it in pictorial form. I also had to get models to take the poses for the positions I had designed, and I had to find Missouri people so as to individualize the characters and make them all look like Missourians. It took eighteen months to do the research and to prepare the design for the mural, and six months to paint it.

Part of the preparation was making a model in clay of the entire mural. The purpose of this was to give a three-dimensional projection for the work, to make the figures stand out one from another, give them an illusionary realism. It also provided a kind of logic of light and shade for the whole mural.

I've heard it said that I invented the idea of sculpting pictures, but this is an old 16th century Italian technique. Some of the great artists like Tintoretto and the Spanish artist El Greco used it.

I wanted my mural to be *real*, as I've indicated. In order to make it real, I had to have some reality to refer to, so I made that reality out of clay.

A lot of people thought the kind of realism I employed was misdirected, that it should have all been given over to our famous characters, soldiers, senators, governors, etc. But I wasn't so much interested in famous characters as I was in the ordinary run of Missourians I had known in my youth. So the better part of my mural is of people and things I had actually experienced myself in our State. Only the north wall and, of course, the panels with old



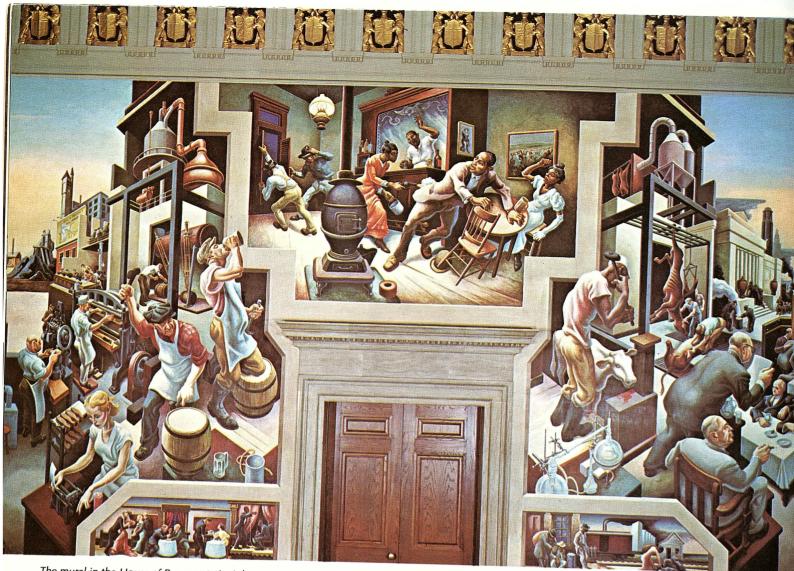
historical subject matter represent things I hadn't directly experienced. But even there I used real Missouri people that I met and knew for models.

There were some State Representatives who thought the mural ought to be whitewashed off the wall after I had finished it. But I knew that if the State had spent so much money, they wouldn't be able to do that in a hurry. I figured that by the time they got the votes to do the whitewashing, they'd probably get to liking the mural. They did! So it's still there.



Thomas H. Benton sketches the Current River

Thomas H. Benton



The mural in the House of Representative's lounge was painted by one of Missouri's most noted artists, the late Thomas Hart Benton. Benton's concentration on what he termed the "ordinary run of Missourians" and their role in the state's history drew criticism from legislators who felt the mural should focus on





The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804 captured the imagination of a young nation and clearly established Missouri as the Gateway to the West. On either side at the top of the grand stairway are detailed bronze statues of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, sculptured by James Earle Fraser.

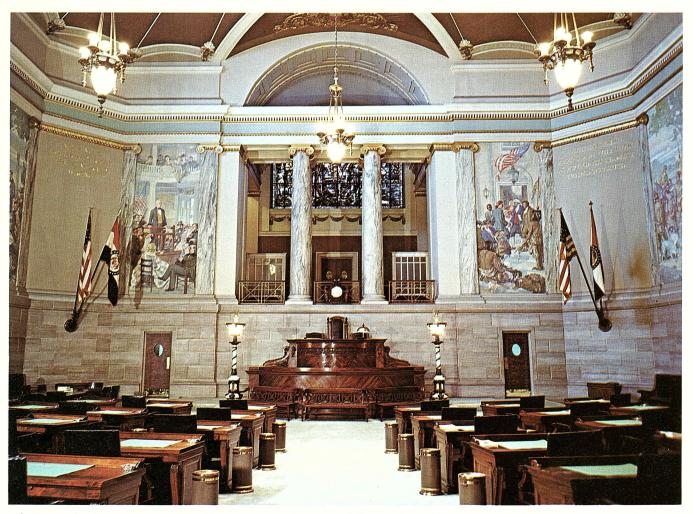
# The Third Floor: Senate Wing

resented by the window and mural painting in the Senate chamber. The murals are entitled Daniel Boone at the Judgment Tree, showing the pioneer holding court in the Spanish-held Femme Osage District; President Jefferson Greeting Lewis and Clark upon their return to Washington from the Pacific Coast in 1806; Benton's Speech in St. Louis, 1849, a painting showing Senator Thomas Hart Benton speaking in support of a railroad to the Pacific; and Blair's Speech at Louisiana, 1866, depicting Frank P. Blair, a statesman and ex-Union

soldier, making the first speech in the state supporting the Democratic party after the Civil War.

The painted window, designed by Richard Miller, shows the landing of Hernando De Soto, the Spanish explorer who crossed the Mississippi to become the first white man to set foot on Missouri's soil.

The Senate is furnished with walnut desks and chairs for 34 senators. At the south entrance of the Senate chamber is a painting of George Caleb Bingham, perhaps Missouri's most noted artist, and at the north end is a painting of General John Joseph Pershing, Commander in Chief of the American Forces in World War I, also a Missourian. Pershing was the highest ranking military officer in the history of the country and the only General of the Armies the United States has ever had.



The Senate chamber is ringed by 16 marble columns with the President's rostrum located below a painted-glass window. Four mural panels, painted by Richard E. Miller, show periods of Missouri history. A visitor's gallery overlooks the chamber.

# SESSENTIAL THAT PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD

The rotunda area of the third floor contains graceful arches and ornate columns below the dome. Sunlight through cathedral glass provides a soft illumination.

## Other Features

FFICES OCCUPY A large part of the space on the fourth floor of the Capitol. The doorways to the Senate and House visitors' galleries are located on this floor.

An open bridge on the fourth floor offers visitors a spectacular view of the third floor rotunda on one side and the legislative research library on the other. Skylights above the research library often bathe the area in a soft yellow glow.

Looking up from this spot a visitor can see clearly the major features of the dome, including the bronze chandelier, the Frank Brangwyn murals, the whispering gallery, and the twelve large stained-glass windows.

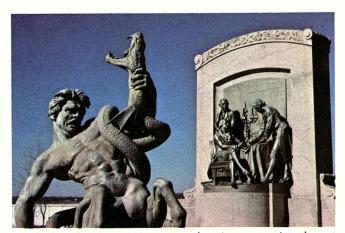


Looking down from the whispering gallery, located in the dome of the Capitol, a visitor receives a different perspective.

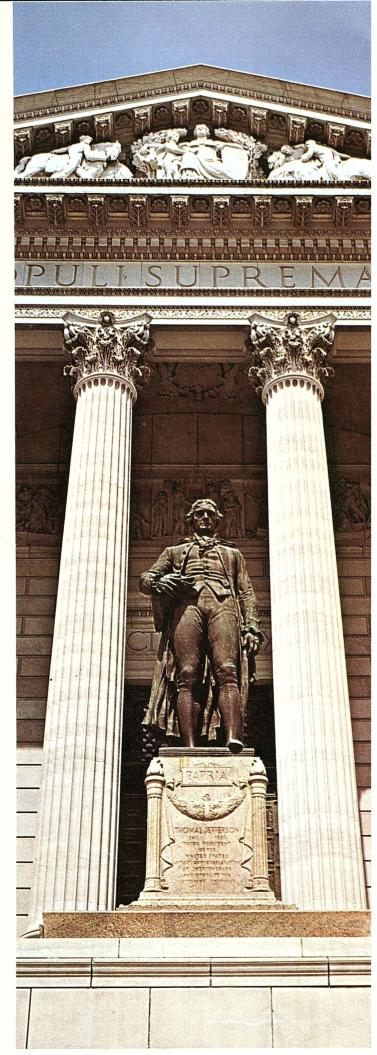


Grouped around the Capitol rotunda on the third floor are four small domes. General John J. Pershing is commemorated in the far background.

The commanding bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson stands on a handsome pedestal of granite in front of the Capitol. Thirteen feet tall, the statue is a fitting tribute to the man responsible for the Louisiana Purchase.



Overlooking the Missouri River -- once the primary artery into the vast Louisiana Territory -- Karl Bitter's relief, "The Signing of the Treaty," and Adolph A. Weinman's "The Fountain of the Centaurs" together represent the wild, untamed nature of the early territory and the force of a civilization that sought to tame it.



## Architectural Detail

WO FOUNTAINS, the fountain of the sciences and the fountain of the arts, flank each side of the entrance drive leading to the Capitol. Sculptured figures on the east fountain represent the physical science, while figures on the west fountain represent the fine arts.

Missouri's two great rivers are symbolized by two large statues by Robert Aitkens. The female figure on the west of the front exterior stairway represents the Missouri River and the male figure on the east of the stairway represents the Mississippi River.

On the opposite side of the Capitol, overlooking the Missouri River, stands a relief commemorating the signing of the Louisiana Pur-

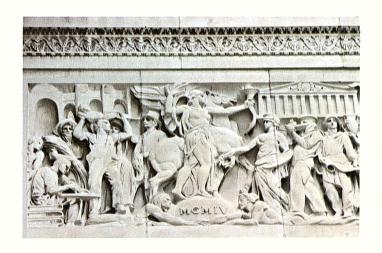
Sculptural frieze work extends in a band for 300 feet around the Capitol exterior. The south frieze was designed by Alexander Stirling Calder, and the section pictured here represents the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition

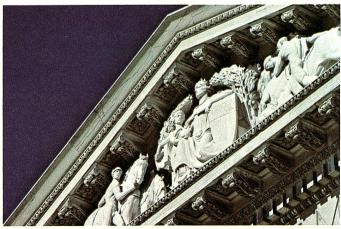
Six ornate Corinthian columns, each 48 feet high and nearly five feet in diameter, guard the south entrance to the Capitol.

chase treaty. The relief depicts Marbois, Napoleon's treasurer, negotiating with Robert Livingston, Ambassador to France, and with James Monroe, who later became President of the United States.

Quotations and epigrams, selected by the State Capitol Commission Board, have been inscribed on the exterior and the interior of the building.

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto," the state motto, is prominently placed above the front entrance. Translated from Latin, it means, "Let the good (or welfare) of the people be the supreme law."





The pediment above the Capitol's south entrance features a series of figures carved by Adolph A. Weinman. In the center is an enthroned figure representing Missouri. The figure's left arm rests on a shield bearing the state's coat of arms while the boy at her right holds a winged globe representing the "Spirit of Progress."

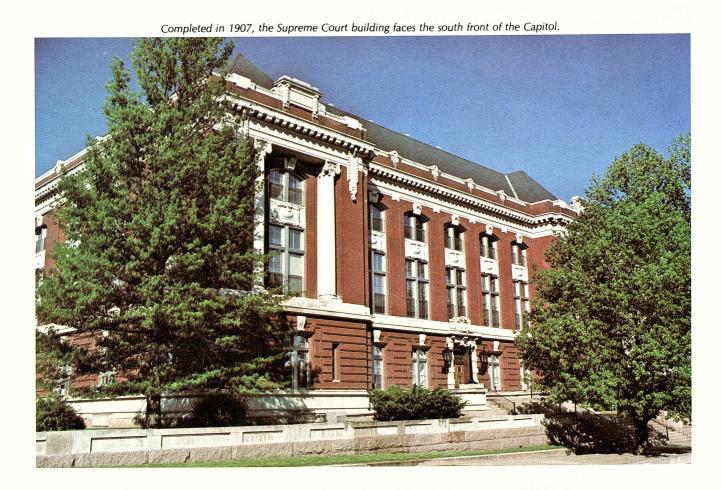
## Supreme Court

ISSOURI'S HIGHEST COURT, which is constitutionally charged with general supervision of all courts in the state, is located directly opposite the Capitol to the southwest. The red brick building of French Renaissance architecture is the second Supreme Court building in Jefferson City. The first was built in 1877, and occupied until 1907 when the current structure was completed. Funds remaining from the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition (World's Fair) in St. Louis were used to complete the present Supreme Court building.

The lobby contains a massive marble staircase with ornamental iron railings and a brass handrail. The first floor houses the offices of the Supreme Court clerk, the state courts administrator, and the Attorney General. The second floor features the two court chambers and the impressive library, which is two stories high and extends the entire length of the building.



The Missouri Supreme Court holds three sessions annually to hear oral argument in cases on appeal. Several hundred cases are decided each year.



### **Executive Mansion**

S TANDING ON THE HILLTOP east of the Capitol, the Executive Mansion has served as the home for Missouri's governors since the 1870s. Constructed in the Renaissance style with both French and Italianate influences, the mansion was designed by Missouri architect George Ingham Barnett. Built in 1871, it was first occupied by Governor B. Gratz Brown, who donated four pink granite columns from an Iron County quarry to support the massive roof of the front porch.

The original hand-carved solid walnut front doors open onto the Great Hall on the mansion's first floor. Around the Great Hall are the other main public rooms: the Double Parlor or formal reception room, the Dining Room featuring a unique sideboard with unusual enclosed circular ends, the Library, and the Nook, around which winds the Grand Stairway. The stairway is free-standing with banisters and balustrades of solid, hand-carved black walnut.

The mansion is adorned with portraits of former Missouri First Ladies, as well as many rare and unique furnishings and mementos donated by the families who have occupied the home.

The second floor serves as the private living quarters of the governor's family. The third floor contains guest bedrooms and a large ballroom that is used on special occasions.



The formal reception room often is called the "Gold Room" because of its collection of 24-carat gold leaf furniture, some of which was acquired from the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis.



Among the notable features of the Executive Mansion are the four massive granite columns at the front entrance. The columns were donated to the Mansion by its first occupant, Governor B. Gratz Brown.

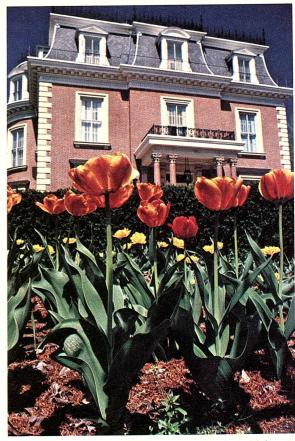
## Governor's Gardens

OCATED BETWEEN THE Capitol and Executive Mansion, and adjacent to Jefferson Landing State Historic Site is the Governor's Garden. The garden features formal flower arrangements around a central reflecting pool.

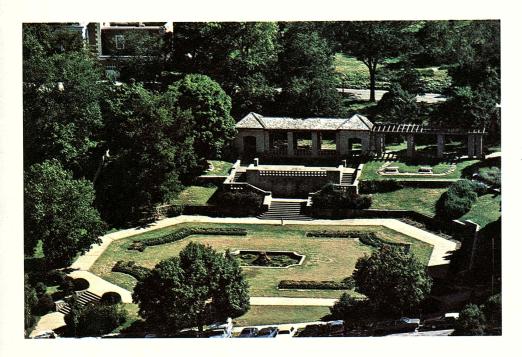
A stone pergola overlooks the garden from the hillside adjacent to the Executive Mansion. Floral arrangements are changed several times during each growing season, and the garden provides a colorful backdrop for special events or for a leisurely stroll.



In the spring and summer, goldfish and water lilies add life and color to the reflecting pool in the Governor's Garden.



The formal arrangement of the Governor's Garden adds beauty and color to the Executive Mansion.



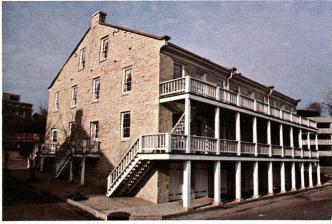
The formal setting of the Governor's Garden often provides a backdrop for concerts and special events. Surrounded on three sides by the Executive Mansion, the Capitol, and Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, the Governor's Garden is a favorite spot for relaxing and enjoying the view.

# Jefferson Landing

is a complex of three restored buildings located a block from the Capitol at the foot of Jefferson Street. During the middle years of the 19th century, Jefferson Landing was the primary Missouri River wharf for the capital city and a vital part of the city's commercial life. The buildings form the oldest remaining Missouri River commercial district in the state.

Restored in 1976 as Missouri's official state Bicentennial project, Jefferson Landing today serves as a visitor center for the entire Capitol complex.

The oldest structure at Jefferson Landing is the Lohman Building, a symmetrical limestone building probably constructed between 1838 and 1840. Massive stone walls divide the Lohman Building into three bays of equal rectangular dimensions. During the 1840s and 1850s, the Lohman Building served as a transfer point for freight traveling along the Missouri River. Its upper floors served as an inn and boarding house. Many state legislators stayed in the building while the General Assembly was in session. Today the Lohman Building features a slide presentation and exhibits centered around history and life in the capital city.



The broad balconies on the Lohman Building provided a good spot from which early residents and visitors could view steamboat traffic on the Missouri River. The nine wide doors at ground level made freight transfer more convenient.



Exhibits and a slide presentation in the Lohman Building help introduce visitors to the history of Missouri's capital. Artifacts relating to the development of Jefferson City and to life on the Missouri River are on display.



Once a bustling river wharf, Jefferson Landing's two main structures, the Union Hotel (foreground) and the Lohman Building, still host thousands of visitors annually. Today, exhibits and special events, not river travel, attract visitors to the historic site.

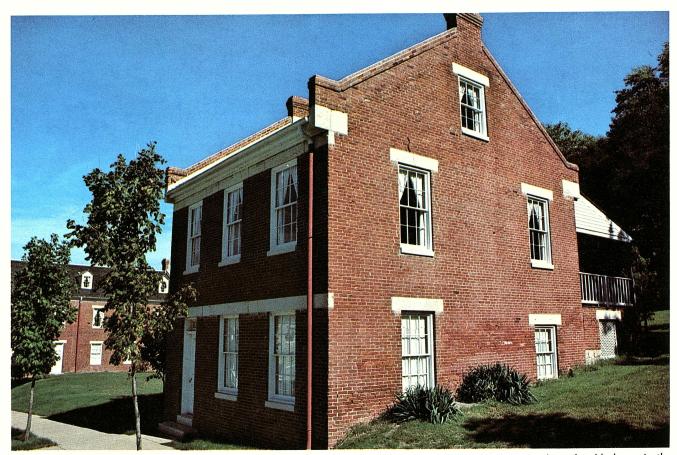
The Union Hotel, located across Jefferson Street from the Lohman Building, was constructed in 1854 as a hotel, boat store, and freight warehouse. The hotel was built by Captain Charles Maus, who, after his Civil War service, named the building the Union Hotel as a reflection of his war sentiments. The building now houses galleries for arts and crafts exhibits of interest to Missourians, and a large public meeting room.

The Christopher Maus House was constructed in 1856 by the brother of Captain Charles Maus. The red brick home is representative of the building styles used in Jefferson City in the mid-19th century.

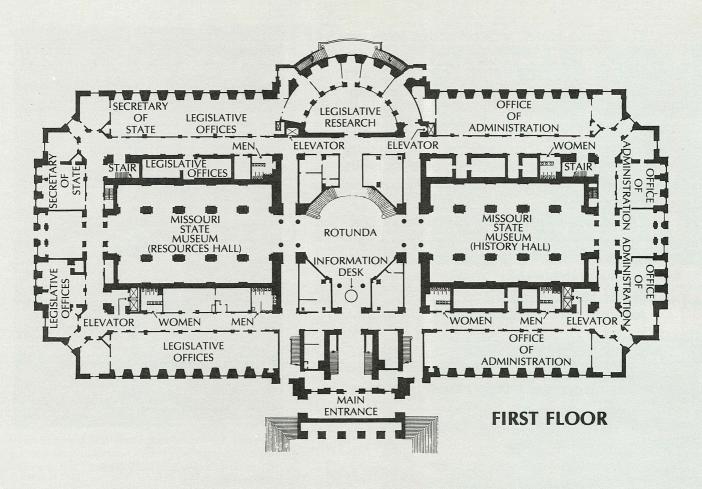
Jefferson Landing State Historic Site is often the location used for living history demonstrations and other special events such as a recreation of a trip down the Missouri River by early fur traders and a Civil War reenactment.

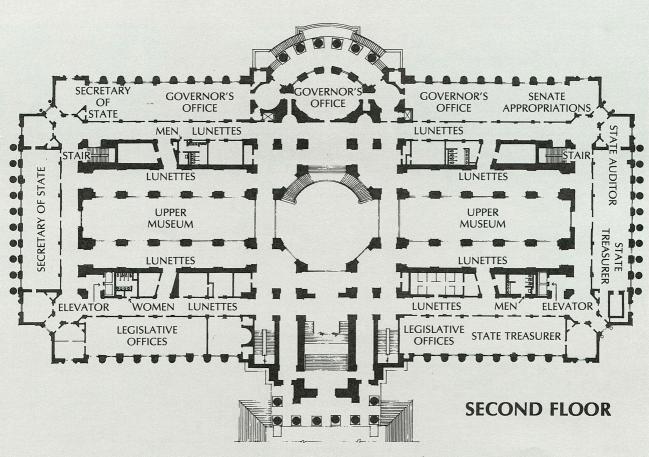


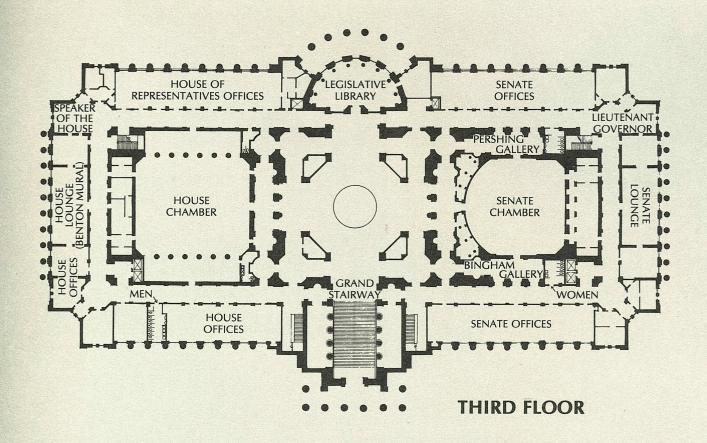
Galleries in the Union Hotel feature special art and craft exhibits on a rotating basis. In addition, special events, lectures, and seminars are held frequently in a meeting room in the building.

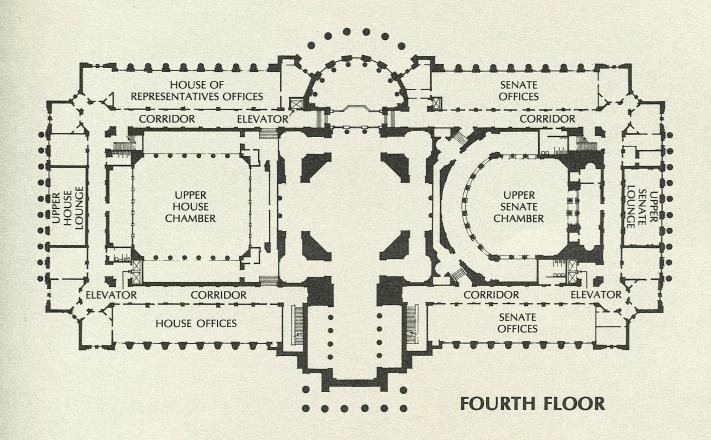


After purchasing a small section at the back of his brother's lot, Christopher Maus constructed a handsome and comfortable home in the mid-1850s. Today the Christopher Maus House is one of the three structures that compose Jefferson Landing State Historic Site.











MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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